

little or no diplomatic establishment. And I am not for linking-ourselves by new treaties with the generals of Europe; entering-that field of slaughter to preserve their balance, or joining in the confederacy of kings (o war against the principles of liberty. I am for freedom of religion and against all manoeuvres to bring-about a legal ascendancy of one sect over another; for freedom of the press and against all violations of the Constitution to silence by force and not by reason the complaints or criticisms just or unjust of our citizens against the conduct of their agents. And I am for encouraging the progress of science in all its branches; and not for raising a hue and cry against the sacred name of philosophy; for awing the human mind by stories of raw-head and blood)' bones to a distrust of its own vision and to rely implicitly on that of others; to go kickward instead of forward to look for improvement; to believe that government, religion, morality, and every other science were in the highest perfection in ages of the darkest ignorance and that nothing can ever be devised more perfect than what was established by our forefathers. To these I will add that I was a sincere well-wisher to the success of the French Revolution, and still wish it may end in the establishment of a free and well-ordered republic; but I have not been insensible to the atrocious depredations they have committed on our commerce. The first object of my heart is my own country. In that is embarked my family, my fortune, and my own existence. I have not one farthing of interest nor one fibre of attachment out of it, nor a

single motive of preference of any one nation to another but in proportion as they are more or less friendly to us. (To Elbridge Gerry, 1799. F. VII., 327-329.)

PROGRESS.—The Gothic idea that we are to look backwards instead of forwards for the improvement of the human mind,, and to recur to the annals of our ancestors for what is not perfect in government, in religion and in learning is worthy of those bigots in religion and government by whom it has been recommended and whose purposes it would answer. But it is not an idea which this country will endure. (To Joseph Priestly,